6:Beasley U-4 (no date) 1935 ONI3 Santa Cruz ONI3

436 [114] feature, are derived from a paroquet. The writer has had the assistance of two local residents, who have kindly made enquiries over the last two years. Some twenty specimens are known to be preserved in museums, many of which are but poor examples of the original coils. It has been definitely ascertained that in the past no less than eleven distinct grades of this currency were recognized, the difference varying with the width of the coils, and the introduction of recognized quantities of feathers other than red, the lowest grade (of which none exist to-day) being composed entirely of black feathers.

436 174 [173] [463] Whilst the native versions as to the conception of this currency definitely state that it is comparatively modern, it should be borne in mind that in view of the conservatism of the native mind, such a highly specialized example of technical effort must represent many generations of time. Whilst the method of manufacture, coupled with the recognized eleven grades of values, and the fact that only the bush people have this knowledge, all point to a state of affairs which must be of considerable antiquity. This is further strengthened by the multiplication of the various interests involved. First are the people who only capture the birds and extract the feathers. Secondly there are the people who stick on the feathers to the plates, and lastly, those (invariably bush people) who work up the plates into the coils. The origin is therefore decidedly uncertain. The natives have, however, retained the name of the originator, and are emphatic that red feather money superseded shell currency. Shell money is still made and is produced as single strings packed in banana leaf bundles, whilst another form consists of broad belts made up of numerous strands of shell beads, examples of which are well known from the Carolines.

[173] [171]

There are no records obtainable to-day as to the origin of this remarkable currency, but examination of these coils does, however, reveal certain features, and the very obvious results indicate that they were originally body belts, a common form of personal ornament all over Melanesia, and proof is established by a series of comparative examples. One may surmise even further, though without definite proof, that formerly the belt was a bark one on which the feathers were fixed direct, and as such belts become recognized commercial units, the desire to create similar belts of higher values became a form of economic necessity; so the loose band of feather work was evolved, which, however, still retained the original finish to the ends, and the cords for tying, and the original bark belt simply became the frame on which the feather belt was for convenience wound. Specimens of the currency, both in process of manufacture and the completed coil, with slides, were shown.

[301]

000 **Handbook of African Tribes.**

A meeting of the African group was held on the 9th April to consider the possibility of effecting co-operation between the Royal Anthropological Institute and the International Institute of African Languages and Cultures in regard to the *Handbook of African Tribes* contemplated by the latter. It was generally agreed that the *Handbook* is a very desirable undertaking and one which the Royal Anthropological Institute should actively support. It was resolved that the Council be recommended (1) to issue a circular, conjointly with other interested Societies and Institutes, to its members advising them of the nature of the projected *Handbook* and inviting the assistance of all such as are in a position to render assistance; (2) to use the group as a nucleus of all activities concerned with the *Handbook*: that members be invited to enlist their names with the chairman of the group to form a panel of collaborators who may be drawn upon when the schemes for the *Handbook* have made further progress. 77

As at present conceived, the *Handbook* will consist of three separate volumes under separate editors: (1) South Africa, including South West Africa, Portuguese East Africa, the two Rhodesias and Nyasaland; (2) East Africa, including North Africa, Tanganyika, Kenya, Uganda, Sudan, Abyssinia, the countries of the Eastern Horn, and North Africa; (3) West Africa.

It is earnestly requested that all Fellows, whether in Africa or not, who are able to help in this work, which it is estimated will occupy some three years, should communicate with the chairman of the African Group (c/o The Royal Anthropological Institute), who will put them in touch with the appropriate editors and suggest the lines along which their assistance will be most welcome. The organization of such a panel of volunteers appears to be the most effective way in which the Institute may co-operate in this project.

REVIEWS.

ARCHÆOLOGY.

Bronzezeitliche und früheisenzeitliche Chronologie: I Italien; II Hallstattzeit; III Kupfer- und frühe Bronzezeit; IV Griechenland. *By Nils Åberg.* (*Mongraphien No. 18 Kungl. Vitterhets Historie och Antikvitets Akademien, Stockholm*) 1930–1933. 78

Dr. Åberg's new chronology of prehistoric Europe is noteworthy, firstly, as indicating the final overthrow of the inflated dates introduced by his